



I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: August 8, 2006

Signature:

*Michael J. Doherty*  
(Michael J. Doherty)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-451 CONT  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Ralph et al.

Application No.: 10/725,306

Confirmation No.: 2905

Filed: December 1, 2003

Art Unit: 3731

For: DISTRACTION INSTRUMENT FOR USE IN  
ANTERIOR CERVICAL FIXATION  
SURGERY

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**NOTIFICATION OF LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Assignee, SpineCore, Inc., hereby notifies the Patent and Trademark Office that it is not entitled to status as a small entity, and that the claim for small entity status filed by the Applicant is hereby withdrawn.

Dated: August 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By *Michael J. Doherty*  
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